



NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER, 2009

THE MEETING

After a long, long spring and a little summer, we will reconvene our monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 1 at BJ's located at 900 Nth 1st Street, Hamilton. (It is still there and operating for those who don't regularly cruise Hamilton's streets.) General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Dinners and your favorite libation are available.

THE SPEAKER

We will once again play "What I did last summer" for the class. This program entails a video this year - a montage of fish photos and huge grins. Bob Percy is putting this together and, maybe, there is still time to get your mug and piscine endeavors on the video. Call Bob at 821-1122. Or maybe you're too late. If you are too late for the video, bring proof of life to pass around.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer whether it be fishing, traveling or just doing the many events around the Bitterroot Valley. If you still have out of town visitors here, there's still several weeks left to get in some good floats on the River. If your visitors are still hanging around on September 1, bring them as your guests to our regular meeting at 7:00 pm. If you missed our 1st Annual Pig Roast on July 11 at Lake Como, you missed a fantastic day of Food, Fun and Fellowship. All the thanks go to Rich Morrissey and Bob Fickett for pulling off this first time event. I nominate them to do it again next year.

July 19 was our 1st Annual Fishing Day at the Stafford Estate on Skalkaho Road. Twenty of our FFB members played host to 16 physically challenged individuals who fished, some for the first time, this great little private pond. Everyone caught at least one fish and several caught a half dozen or more. The largest fish of the day was a 22" Rainbow. A big "thank you" goes to Leon Powell and Jim Cline for putting this special event together. Don McGourty Jr. is heading up the Bitterroot River Clean-up on Saturday, September 12. I encourage you to lend a hand and help cleanse the river of trash and debris. It doesn't take much time or effort if everyone pitches in. Give Don a call at 363-3146 or see him at the September meeting if you can help.

September 1 is also the beginning of our first year of membership dues. For the meager annual cost of \$25, you can enjoy all the benefits our organization has to offer. Now you may ask just what are those benefits? Well, the truth is you'll never get your money's worth if you're looking for free hats, door prizes or other gifts. What you will get is the benefit of meeting and fishing with interesting and knowledgeable people, the benefit of making new friends and the benefit of belonging to a great and growing organization. (Editor's note: He forgot to mention the inestimable pleasure of reading the monthly newsletter.) All these benefits, and more, are priceless. If you're not a member yet, you can print a copy of the Membership Application from the FFB website www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org see Linda Powell at the meetings.

With the end of the year nearing, it's time to start thinking about election of officers. The Nominations Committee, chaired by Rich Morrissey, is now taking names. Do you want to be on the list? If you have an interest and desire to help guide your organization next year, now is the time to submit

your name. The slate of nominees will be offered to the General members for a vote at the December meeting. Until next time, may your rod always be bent .

Ed Couchman

ODDS AND ENDS

From the Hamilton Chapter of Trout Unlimited:

More info will be forthcoming very soon, but tickets are now available for our 30th anniversary banquet. The event will be held on Friday, September 25 at the Bitterroot River Inn. Some of the choice raffle items already on the dock are fine wines, float trips with some of Montana's luminary guides, duck hunting trips, gourmet dinners, fine art and pottery, and much much more. Of particular note will be a set of one-of-a-kind matched bamboo "rods" from the boobys at Sweetgrass Rods. We will also presenting our Gold Trout award and a new Landowner Appreciation award to some local worthies. Ticket prices remain at \$45/person and can be reserved or purchased by contacting Bill Bean (363-6158, fishaus@blackfoot.net). If you would like to donate, become a banquet sponsor or volunteer to help, please let Marshall Bloom know by email.

Fly tying:

As this newsletter is being composed, all our stalwart tiers are out fishing (or at least not returning phone calls from me). I assume it will start up again but have no current info.

Fuse Lake Trip:

On Saturday July 18th, six members of FFB made the trip to Fuse Lake in the Sapphire Mountains. Jim Cline, Howard Knight, Steve Lilburn, Ed Couchman, Mike Wesche and Pierre Satkowiak met in the morning, drove over Skalkaho pass, (A BIG THANKS to Ed who had a roomy van for all six), and made the 2 5/8 mile hike up to the lake. It's a beautiful tarn in a rocky setting, with many good spots for careful back casting. The lake is also teeming with loads of willing Grayling! Everyone caught fish on both

dry flies and nymphs. The pattern did not seem to matter much to the cruising fish. They were rising 3 feet from shore out to the middle of the lake. The fish were not huge, but put up a good fight. All agreed it was worth the hike through mountain wildflowers to fish in that beautiful location.

Membership:

As most of you already know, our Club is starting a dues program in September. The annual dues for an individual is \$25 and for a family, \$35. Please see Linda Powell at the check in desk at our September meeting or download an application form at www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org.

FOR FUN

Most of us live in semi-rural areas, so you will appreciate a recent call to our County Commissioners. A new resident from California called to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on her road. The reason: "Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! - I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore."

THE AUTHOR

Despite extensive cocktail hours on the Smith River float and other summer outings, I'm still composing this ode to failing memory and I'm still looking for intelligent input of newsletter ideas. . You can now reach me at 406-381-5611 or rich@rkymtn.net. I